

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9874

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 1497

USINT HAVANA 87

AMEMBASSY NASSAU 1503

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2098

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, JM

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF PNP CONVENTION: INTRA-PARTY HARMONY ACHIEVED

REF: A) KINGSTON A-6 OF JAN. 14, 1978 B) KINGSTON 0383

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER MANLEY IS ALLEGED TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PREVAILED ON BOTH THE MODERATES AND THE RADICALS FOR SAKE OF PARTY HARMONY TO AVOID ELECTION CONTEST OF VICE PRESIDENTS AND INSTEAD TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF TERMS OF CURRENT INCUMBENTS (3 MODERATES AND 1 RADICAL). FIDEL CASTRO'S ADVICE TO THE RADICALS THAT JAMAICA NEEDS THE UNITED STATES IS ALLEGED TO HAVE QUIETED THE RADICALS FOR THE TIME BEING, AT LEAST. CONVENTION IS ALSO TO DISASSOCIATE UNITED STATES WHEN REFERRING TO IMPERIALISM, AND ALSO TO EMPHASIZE A MIXED ECONOMY UNDER "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM". END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: AS INDICATED REFTEL A THE ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS AT THE SEPT. 1977 PNP ANNUAL CONVENTION WAS POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY THIS YEAR WHEN IT LOOKED AS CONFIDENTIAL

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IF RADICAL CANDIDATES WOULD BE ROUNDLY DEFEATED BY THE MODERATES, THUS CAUSING POSSIBLE DEFECTION OF RADICALS FROM PNP. AT START OF NEW YEAR IT LOOKED AS IF MODERATES WOULD PRESS THEIR GAINS AND DEMAND ALL FOUR SEATS BUT ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMF ACTION, THE UNFORTUNATE MANNER IN WHICH GOJ MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WITH ITS HALF-TRUTHS, AND THE SUBSEQUENT DEVALUATION OF JANUARY 13 SET

THE COURAGE OF THE MODERATES BACK A BIT (REFTEL B),
GIVING MANLEY AND OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE IN WITH ABOVE-
MENTIONED COMPROMISE ON VICE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE.
RESUMPTION OF THE SEPT. 1977 CONVENTION NOW SCHEDULED
FOR MARCH 4 AND 5.

3. A COUPLE OF HIGHLY RELIABLE MEMBERS OF MODERATE WING
OF PNP TOLD ME IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT AN UNDERSTANDING
HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE MODERATES AND THE RADICALS
AS FOLLOWS: (A) THE FOUR CURRENT VICE PRESIDENTS WILL
REMAIN FOR THE REST OF THIS YEAR (MODERATES PATTERSON,
COOKE, ISAACS, AND RADICAL SPAULDING); (B) CONVENTION
WILL DENOUNCE IMPERIALISM BUT SPEAKERS WILL TAKE
GREAT CARE IN THEIR RHETORIC TO MAKE CLEAR IT DOES
NOT INCLUDE UNITED STATES IN THEIR DENUNCIATION; (C)
CONVENTION WILL REAFFIRM THE 1974 "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM"
PLATFORM OF A MIXED ECONOMY HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLE OF
THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN JAMAICA
DEVELOPMENT.

4. MY INFORMANTS ALSO SAID THAT FIDEL CASTRO, DURING
HIS VISIT TO JAMAICA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO JOLTED THE PNP
RADICALS AND MANLEY BY TELLING THEM THAT HE (CASTRO)
MADE A MISTAKE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HIS REVOLUTION BY
BAITING AND ANTAGONIZING THE UNITED STATES; THAT
CUBA THEN AND NOW NEEDS THE UNITED STATES. HE CAUTIONED
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THE RADICALS TO LEARN BY HIS MISTAKES AND TO WELCOME
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES. MANLEY,
AT THE RECENT PNP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
REFERRED TO THIS CONVERSATION AND IMPORED RADICAL
MEMBERS TO COOL THEIR RHETORIC AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.
MANLEY IS ALSO QUOTED AS REMARKING " THE UNITED STATES
IS TOO BIG FOR US ANYWAY; WE CANNOT BEAT THEM ". CASTRO'S
ALLEGED INFLUENCE PLUS COMBINATION OF OTHER FACTORS
MENTIONED HEREIN WILL ENABLE MANLEY TO SHOW PARTY
HARMONY AT THE CONVENTION AND WILL PERMIT HIM TO
REGAIN SOME OF THE STATURE HE HAS BEEN LOSING WITHIN
JAMAICA.

5. IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN AT THE CONVENTION
MANLEY WILL DENOUNCE IMPERIALISM AND CALL FOR SEEKING
FINANCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH "SOCIALIST" NATIONS.
HE WILL BE JOINED IN BY OTHER RADICALS. HE WILL THEN
SPEAK OF JAMAICA'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS AND ASK FOR
A DISPLAY OF PARTY UNITY BY ASKING THE CONVENTION TO
APPROVE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE
TERM OF INCUMBENT VICE PRESIDENTS. HE WILL DENOUNCE
CAPITALISM BUT WILL WELCOME OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT

"IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM", WHICH HE OR SOMEONE WILL RECITE, MENTIONING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE GOJ REJECTS ANY FORM OF EXPROPRIATION, THAT FOREIGN PRIVATE CAPITAL IS WELCOME IN JAMAICA IF THE INVESTMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL PURPOSES, AND IF THE PRIVATE INVESTOR IS WILL-INT TO ENTER INTO PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL PRIVATE AND /OR GOVET. INTERESTS, AS MAY BE DETERMINED OR REQUIRED BY GOJ.

6. COMMENT: IF MANLEY SUCCEEDS IN MAKING A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN IMPERIALISM AND THE UNITED STATES, HE WILL INDEED HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A MIRACLE. I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL GO ALL THE WAY; HE IS TOO MUCH A CONFIDENTIAL

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VICTIM OF HIS OWN RHETORIC.
IRVING

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